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Vallejo school board to join funding protest

Times-Herald staff report

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Tonight's Vallejo school board meeting will begin a half-hour late so officials can attend the local part of a statewide day of action protesting cuts in education funding.

The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. at the district office, 665 Walnut Ave. The protest, headed by California Advocates United to Save Education, starts at 4:30 p.m. at Service Club Park along the waterfront on Mare Island Way.

The board's closed session on negotiations and student discipline matters will follow the public session.

The agenda includes a return visit from State Controller's Office representatives to field questions about an audit presented last month of 2007-08 school year finances.

Board members had just received the audit at their April 7 meeting and wanted time to review it before asking further questions.

The public also will have a chance to ask questions.

The audit report can be reviewed on the Vallejo district's website, www.vallejo.k12.ca.us, by clicking "Status Reports" and the bolded "Budget Issues" link

along the right-hand side of the home page.

The board also is expected to vote on laying off 13 teachers at the Vallejo Adult School as part of \$1.5 million in budget slashing. Information about which classes would be affected by the cuts has not yet been released.

District officials also will make a recommendation about participating in the second round of the federal Race to the Top school reform program. California did not receive funding in

the first round, completed earlier this year, but plans to apply again. This week, districts must indicate their intent to participate in the program, which requires further evaluation of teachers and interventions to turn around low performing schools.

Also on the agenda:

- * 1997 Measure A bond update;
- * Appointing an alternate member to a school consolidation advisory committee;
- * 2010-11 Constitutional Advance Property Taxes;
- * Peoples High staffing, credits and enrollment.

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